



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

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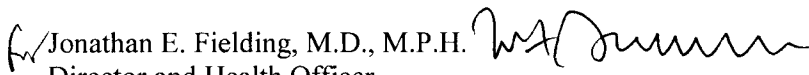
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December 15, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM:  Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON CULTURAL FOOD PREPARATION LAWS**

On October 18, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing the Director of Public Health to convene meetings with restaurant groups representing various Asian cuisines. This is to provide an update on our progress since the September 18, 2006 status report.

Determine additional training needs on the recent State law changes concerning food temperature

Status – The Environmental Health (EH), Consultation and Technical Services (CTS) unit has developed a presentation/training module for the Chinese restaurant community and provided it to the Los Angeles County (LAC) Chinese Restaurants Health Standards Task Force (CRHSTF) for comment. Information contained in the training module is reflective of the needs identified in completed surveys that were submitted to CTS from individual restaurateurs. CRHSTF informed CTS that it has an additional 50 surveys that were completed by its members; however, CRHSTF also reported that the completed surveys were misplaced and were never delivered to CTS for review/evaluation. As a result, CRHSTF will redistribute the survey to its members and provide CTS with completed surveys by February, 2007. At that time, CRHSTF will also provide preliminary comments on the training module.

Although initial discussions with the Japanese Restaurant Association (JRA) suggested that the JRA had interest in pursuing training for its members, the JRA has not followed through on its commitment to provide CTS with completed needs assessment surveys from its members. CTS will meet with the JRA to determine if the JRA has any interest in pursuing this endeavor.

Development of a presentation/training module for the Korean restaurant community is pending translation and presentations/training modules for the Filipino and Vietnamese restaurant communities has commenced. The absence of industry organizations in LAC representing the Filipino and Vietnamese restaurant communities has slowed the development of the requisite training modules as only a very limited number of completed surveys (7 Filipino, 2 Vietnamese) have been submitted to CTS.

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Additional studies on the safety of traditional cultural food preparation techniques

Status – The recent passage of the Asian Traditional Food Act (Assembly Bill 2214) mandates that the State of California Department of Health Services conduct a study on health and sanitation standards in relation to traditional Asian foods. The State will provide results of the study to the Legislature by no later than January 1, 2008. EH will make the appropriate changes to enforcement activities and policies to assure consistency with study results.

Public Health will provide you with another status report in 90 days. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:hd
PH:511:025

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors